

*To Allow Time for Good Roots Before Winter, Smith Says:*

# Plant Alfalfa in Early August

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

For a number of years early August has been a popular time to establish new stands of alfalfa in Southeastern Pennsylvania. More recently many growers have been successful with an early spring seeding without any nurse crop.

The purpose of this article is to stress some of the recommended practices to prepare for this August seeding, if it is to be made this summer.

The ground should be plowed or disced several times during the month preceding the seeding operation. This will kill weeds and get the soil firm before the seeding is made.

Whether the ground is plowed or disced several times makes little difference because the end result should be the same. If weeds are a problem, it might be best to plow and then work every week to 10 days.

A complete soil test will determine the amount of lime and fertilizer that is needed, these elements should be worked into the topsoil during the soil pre-

paring process. It is especially important to incorporate the lime into the soil where it will do the most good.

Certified seed of the preferred variety should be used, inoculation with the proper bacteria is very important prior to seeding.

There are many good varieties and growers are urged to study the habits of each, the maturity times, so that all of the alfalfa crop does not mature at the same time. This staggering of maturity will permit the cutting of most of the crop at the proper time.

Weed control is essential when seeding without a nurse crop. Eptam may be used to spray over the field just prior to planting if no grass is to be seeded with the alfalfa; this chemical must be worked into the soil immediately (10 to 15 minutes) after application. Do not use Eptam to control weeds if timothy or orchard grass are to be mixed with the alfalfa.

The other method of weed control is to spray the field with 2,4-D-B several weeks after seeding when the small weeds are 1 to 2 inches tall (not more), this

material may be used with grass-legume mixtures.

The seeding operation should be with the band seeding method where the seeds are dropped on top of the ground behind the drill and over a band of complete (5-10-5) fertilizer. Some machines have a press wheel to press the seeds and soil compactly together for quick germination. If this is not available, then rolling or cultipacking in the same direction as the drilling will help get good germination.

The seeding rate recommended at this time is 20 pounds per acre, which is heavier than recommended in the early sixties.

The time of seeding depends largely upon the weather conditions during the month of August, because we are interested in quick germination and maximum growth before freezing weather. The prime time would be the first 10 days of the month to permit the development of strong plants with good roots before winter.

Alfalfa is one of our most outstanding forage crops. It has a place on most livestock farms and especially with dairymen.



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## Weaver Drivers Win Safety Cash

Victor F. Weaver, Inc., New Holland, recently presented 45 of its truck drivers with safe driving awards totaling \$7,862, announced Luke B. Sauder, Supervisor of Fleet Safety and Driver Training.

Two men, Jay Stoltzfus and Lee Weaver, received special recognition for their five consecutive years of accident free driving. Stoltzfus has driven a total of 225,000 accident free miles, while Weaver has accumulated 325,000 miles over the five year period.

Seventeen drivers, with a company record of one to four years, received Recognition of Great Accomplishment for their safe driving record.

The highest safe driving award accumulated amounted to \$381 with an average per driver award of \$174.72. However, if all 48 Weaver drivers would have operated accident free for the year, an additional \$5,000 could have been collected.

## Bovine TB Discovered

Discovery of bovine tuberculosis in a Union County dairy herd was reported this week by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

The entire herd of 109 animals will be destroyed and the owner — Dallas Walter, Lewisburg, RD3 — will be indemnified for the loss under a joint Federal-State program. State Agriculture Secretary Leland H. Bull said.

"This case emphasizes the need for constant vigilance and surveillance to keep this disease under control," Secretary Bull said.

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